10th January 1950] [Sri H. Sitarama Reddi]

"I am sorry that the Leader of the Opposition found it necessary to take the attitude that he took. As I have already explained, the Government do not mean to take away the privileges of any of the Members of this House including the Opposition. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will not mind what has happened. I hope that he has taken up his present attitude not as a protest against the provisions of the Bill but perhaps because he felt hurt that adequate time was not given."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Both."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"I take it that so far as the provisions of this Bill are concerned, he is thoroughly satisfied."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"No."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The question is—

'that the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Amendment Bill, 1949 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 1950), be passed into law.'"

The motion was carried.

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I am very sorry to remark that whatever the other faults of the Government might be, I for my part am not satisfied with the way in which the Government and the other Members of their party attended to the work that was going on in this House especially when the Opposition was so strongly objecting to the motion. I would have been perfectly justified in declaring the motion lost, adjourning the House and walking out. Because I knew that the Members did not anticipate such a situation and in deference to the importance of the subject, I waited for some time. I was surprised that even the Whips were not present and nobody challenged my decision immediately. I have been telling the Government more than once that if sufficient voices are not raised on their side, I would have no compunction to decide against their motion. I hope the Government will take a lesson from this. Especially when the Leader of the Opposition was so vehement, I expected the Whips to be vigilant and the Members to be in their places. (Sir S. B. Adityan rose to speak.) I do not want any discussion on this matter. I am mentioning this for future guidance, and I hope that such things will not take place in future."

Th House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Friday. the 20th January 1950.

V.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

The Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Amendment Bill, 1949 (*L.A. Bill No.* 1 *of* 1950), *as passed by the Assembly and received therefrom in the Council.*